

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Claim 1 (previously presented): An isolated peptide mimic of a conserved gonococcal lipo-oligosaccharide (LOS) epitope not found on human blood group antigens, wherein said peptide mimic is capable of inducing in a mammal an immune response against said conserved gonococcal lipo-oligosaccharide (LOS) epitope and wherein said peptide mimic comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claim 2 Cancelled.

Claim 3 (original): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the immune response is T-cell dependent.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the amino acid sequence of the peptide mimic comprises cysteine residues at each terminus.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 4, wherein a cyclic peptide is formed through disulfide bridges between the cysteine residues at each terminus of said amino acid sequence.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 5, wherein the peptide mimic is coupled to a second agent.

Claim 7 (original): The peptide mimic according to claim 6, wherein the second agent is an adjuvant.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the peptide mimic further comprises an adjuvant or a carrier protein.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the peptide mimic is part of a multiple-antigen peptide (MAP).

Claim 10 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein said peptide mimic competes with gonococcal lipooligosaccharide (LOS) for binding to monoclonal antibody 2C7 produced by a hybridoma cell line having the ATCC accession number HB-11859.

Claim 11: Cancelled.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the peptide mimic immunospecifically binds to monoclonal antibody 2C7 produced by a hybridoma cell line having the ATCC accession number HB-11859.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the peptide mimic immunospecifically binds to a monoclonal antibody produced by immunizing a mammal with an anti-idiotypic monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof, wherein said anti-idiotypic monoclonal antibody is produced by a hybridoma cell line having the ATCC accession number HB-11311 ~~HB-11211~~.

Claim 14: Cancelled.

Claim 15 (previously presented): A composition for immunizing against *N. gonorrhoeae* infection comprising an immunoprophylactically effective amount of the peptide mimic according to any one of claims 1, 3, 5-7, 12 and 13.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A composition for immunizing against *N. gonorrhoeae* infection comprising an immunoprophylactically effective amount of an isolated peptide mimic comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

Claims 17-23 Cancelled.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method of immunizing a mammal against *N. gonorrhoeae* infection comprising administering to said mammal an immunoprophylactically effective amount of the peptide mimic according to claim 1 or claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method of immunizing a mammal against *N. gonorrhoeae* infection comprising administering to said mammal an immunoprophylactically effective amount of the peptide mimic according to claim 12 or claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 1, wherein the peptide mimic is coupled to a complement protein.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The peptide mimic according to claim 26, wherein the complement protein is C3d.

Claim 28 (previously presented): A method of immunizing a mammal against *N. gonorrhoeae* infection comprising administering to said mammal an immunoprophylactically effective amount of the peptide mimic according to claim 27 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 29 (previously presented): A composition for immunizing against *N. gonorrhoeae* infection comprising an immunoprophylactically effective amount of the peptide mimic according to claim 27.

Claim 30 (previously presented): A method for increasing the antigenicity of the peptide mimic according to claim 1 comprising coupling said peptide mimic to a complement protein.

Claim 31 (original): The method according to claim 30, wherein the complement protein is C3d.